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URBAN DISTRICT OF MATLOCK.

ANNUAL REPORT.

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sydney S. Procter, M.D., D.P.H.

for the year

1944.



URBAN DISTRICT OF MATLOCK.

Report of Medical Officer of Health, Sydney S. Proctor, M.D. D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Matlock Urban District Council.

Mrs. Groatorex, Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics affecting the Urban District of Matlock for the year 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.

Area.	16,593 acres.
Population - estimated by the Registrar-General (mid-year 1944)	16,880
Population - Census 1931	16,596
Population - Census 1921	15,716
Rateable Value (January 1944)	£118,171
Product of Penny Rate (ascertained)	£472.2.10d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Births.

Live Births.	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	303	155	148
Illegitimate.	33	20	13
	<u>536</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>161</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 19.9

Stillbirths.	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate.	12	5	7
Illegitimate.	1	1	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) - 37.25

Deaths.

Total	Male	Female.
212	96	116

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.5

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Legitimate	14
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>
	<u>15</u>

Infant Mortality Rates.

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	44.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	46.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	30.3

The table below gives a summary of birth, death and infant mortality rates over a period of war years. The birth rate shows a very steady and definite increase during the past four years.

The death rate has remained fairly constant at a figure slightly in excess of the average rate for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality figures approximate the average for the Country as a whole but this figure is too high to be viewed with equanimity.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR SIX YEARS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Birth Rate.	15.85	14.22	14.92	15.94	17.51	19.9
Death Rate -- all causes.	12.82	12.99	12.15	11.99	12.56	12.5
Deaths under 1 year (- all causes) per 1,000 live births.	41.5	28.0	54.94	47.44	30.3	44.6

TABLE SHOWING CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS AS COMPARED WITH OTHER CENTRES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000.	London Adminis- trative County.	Matlock Urban District.
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population).	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	19.9
Death Rate (per 1,000 population).	11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	12.5
Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.)	46.0	52.0	44.0	61.0	44.6

WATER SUPPLIES.

No actual shortage occurred throughout the year, but once again trouble was only averted by the use of a supplementary supply.

This source cannot be considered satisfactory from any angle and that it had to be used in a rainy season emphasises the lack of storage throughout the district. The storage problem is particularly serious at Darley Dale where much pure water runs to waste.

The post war problem will be to find a large supply, sufficient in itself to supply the whole of the district. In my opinion it is very doubtful if exploitation of existing pure supplies will offer more than a very slight amelioration of the conditions. Added to this is the necessity for treating a number of small sources. Even those which are bacteriologically pure require treatment for plumbosolvency. I admit that each could be separately treated, indeed some are so dealt with at present, but the multiplication of plant and the extra supervision surely makes such a course cumbersome and extravagant.

A long term view must be taken of the problem and a determined effort made to obviate the need for a multitude of small sources.

SEWERAGE.

No fresh developments took place but as the chances of post war improvements come nearer it is perhaps advisable to remind the Council of the outstanding requirements in this direction.

The scheme for the Darlev part of the district should be finally settled so that progress can be made as soon as labour and material are available.

Sewerage for Bonsall is absolutely essential and here again it is necessary that plans are prepared and agreed. The natural outfall for Bonsall sewerage is to the existing main sewer at Cromford, but I personally have grave doubts as to whether this sewer, which has very little gradient, will take much extra flow. Therefore in considering Bonsall sewerage thought must also be given to the advisability of duplicating the last length of main sewer.

HOUSING.

It has been considered advisable to recommence the housing survey which was interrupted by the war. It is hardly necessary to refer to the acute shortage of houses, while the condition of some premises, condemned before the war, hardly bears contemplation. When building is possible it is to be hoped that everything will be done to expedite matters by all the Authorities concerned.

On the question of building I would advise the same long term and wide view which I have already advocated in relation to water and sewerage.

MILK.

Although it has been impossible to carry out a full inspection of farms, one need not go far to see that there is no general improvement in the standard of cleanliness of milk production and retail. It is common knowledge that many producers, under stress of war time demands, are keeping and milking cows in most unsatisfactory conditions. To be quite fair one must admit that there are a few instances where new dairies have been provided or other improvements carried out.

In discussing the problem of milk production I must mention the objectionable results which obtain among the many producers who keep a few cows in ramshackle buildings without a dairy at all, and depend on scullery or kitchen facilities (often at a distance) for the necessary cleaning of utensils. These conditions are particularly noticeable in certain parts of the district.

The other side of the picture of "dirty" milk is provided by those consumers, and there are far too many, who leave containers for milk on doorsteps for indefinite periods and thereby run all the risks of dust borne infection. Indeed it is surprising that so many of the population are really indifferent to the impurity of the milk they use.

MEAT.

Once again the Central Slaughter House at Bakewell has been used to capacity. The accommodation available is quite inadequate for the demands made upon it. The resultant overcrowding hinders inspection and causes various difficulties and undesirable features. To give a few examples. There is no screening from flies; and cleaning is difficult as the slaughter house is seldom empty. The arrangements for the hanging of organs are haphazard and frequently make it impossible to relate organs to a given carcass. There should be some arrangement for numbering of carcasses and organs.

Removal of offal should be carried out daily but the present system does not allow for this. In my opinion a separate covered and screened shed should be provided for the storing of all unedible offal - even if it has to remain only for a few hours before removal.

In brief it must be admitted that the present premises are too small, unsuitable and badly sited.

Another matter requiring immediate attention is the method of transport of meat after allocation to the various districts. Vans or lorries for this purpose should be of special construction and not merely adapted cattle vans or ordinary lorries. They should be reserved for meat transport and under no circumstances be used for other purposes.

The figures given in this report together with those for previous years afford abundant proof of the need for a continuation of central slaughtering. Only by such means can one feel moderately confident that all carcasses are inspected. I feel confident that no-one outside "the trade" will wish to see the resurrection of the multitude of small private slaughter houses. Prior to the war the Government had under consideration a scheme which would have entailed centralisation on a very large scale. From many points of view I consider that centralisation of slaughtering should not cover too wide an area. The consumer is the person most to be considered,

and it appears that consumers' interests are best served when butchers can buy freely in an open market. This visualises a continuance of grading and also provision for butchers to be free to buy their own choice of graded animals.

The question would appear to be firstly the location of a new central slaughter house, and secondly the authority responsible for the provision and management of the premises.

To take the first proposition. If the area to be served is the same, or similar to, the present then the location is almost automatically fixed by the market and grading arrangements which centre round the market.

In regard to the second question, the choice appears to be between a Local Authority, or combination of Local Authorities, and a Central Authority - in other words the Government - through one of the Ministries.

To such a central slaughter house all butchers in the area could send their own choice of animals to be killed, hung and inspected. The management would have to be entirely dissociated from all local interests. Inspection could be shared, as at present, between the Inspectors of the three districts included in the scheme.

MEAT INSPECTION UNDER THE CONTROL SCHEME.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

by the Meat Inspectors of the Matlock and Bakewell Urban and Bakewell Rural District Councils.

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
Number Inspected.	2,373	75	6,884	74
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-				
Whole carcasses condemned.	55	18	67	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	489	1	21	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	22.92	25.3	1.3	5.4
Tuberculosis only:-				
Whole carcasses condemned.	97	1	nil	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	572	nil	nil	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	28.2	1.3	nil	2.6

NUMBER OF CATTLE INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Number of cattle inspected.	1,186	2,023	2,479	2,494	2,198	2,373
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	3.7	20.46	12.54	11.46	15.5	22.92
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.1	14.53	13.95	19.68	28.8	28.2

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Matlock Sanitary District 1944.

Name of Inspector - J. D. EVANS.

Area of District 1,6598 acres. Estimated number of houses 5,029
New Houses erected in 1944 - (a) By Local Authority 0
(b) By Private Enterprise 0

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.		Number of Notices Served.		Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.	
			Informal	Legal		
<u>CLOSETS AND ASHPITS:--</u>						
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (not for conversion) ...	10	...	10	0	...	10
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	51	...	6	0	...	4
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s ...	60	...	6	0	...	6
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets ...	14	...	4	0	...	9
Defective Water Closets. ...	2	...	2	0	...	2
Provision of additional Water Closets ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Provision of Portable Ashbins. ...	31	...	12	0	...	14
Dirty Closets. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>						
No disconnection of Waste Pipe. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains. ...	27	...	10	0	...	10
Drains obstructed. ...	47	...	37	0	...	47
<u>OTHER DEFECTS.</u>						
Paving of Courts and yards. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Roofs, Eaves-spouts, & Downspouts ...	10	...	10	0	...	0
Sinks. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Insufficient Ventilation ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Windows. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Dampness. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Water in Cellars. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Water Supply. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Overcrowding. ...	1	...	1	0	...	1
Foul condition of houses. ...	1	...	1	0	...	1
Offensive Accumulations. ...	1	...	1	0	...	1
Animals improperly kept. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Pigsties. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Smoke Nuisances. ...	1	...	1	0	...	0
Urinals. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Nuisances not specified above. ...	0	...	0	0	...	0
Totals	256	...	95	6	...	105

	Number on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops. ...	326	60	0	1
Bakehouses. ...	23	17	1	1
Slaughter-houses. ...	19	0	0	0
Offensive Trades. ...	0	0	0	0
Common Lodging Houses. ...	0	0	0	0
Totals	368	77	1	2

(signed) JOHN D. EVANS.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
DURING THE LAST 4 YEARS.

	1941	1942	1943	1944
Smallpox.	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	11	27	69	42
Diphtheria.	6	3	3	5
Pneumonia.	11	5	8	10
Enteric Fever (including para-typhoid)	3	0	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	15	18	25	15
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	0	0	2
Erysipelas.	1	0	3	1
Polio-myelitis.	0	0	0	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	5	3	4	2
Malaria.	1	0	0	1
Whooping Cough.	47	3	25	20
Measles.	60	9	195	12
Tuberculosis, (all forms).	20	20	18	14

NO. OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR 1944, IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total	Hosp.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	3	2	22	10	2	1	-	1	-	42	29
Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	3
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	3	-	-	15	5
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	2	1	10	0
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Polio-myelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	0
Measles.	2	-	2	2	-	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	12	0
Whooping Cough.	-	2	1	2	3	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	0
Tuberculosis Pulmonary.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2	-	8	3
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary.	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	6	4

SCABIES ORDER 1941.

Under the powers conferred by the above Order, 104 persons received domiciliary treatment.

Included in this number are three cases which were not cured by the first treatment or which were reinfected in a very short time.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows age, sex distribution and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Mortality.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	2	4	2	1	1	-	-

I have the honour to be, Mrs. Greatorox and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Bath Street,
Bakewell.

23rd October 1945.

